



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

The author of John concludes his gospel with the verse, *“But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”*

Then he continues with a short epilogue, beginning with this story. After the resurrection of Jesus, and after he has appeared to the disciples and they have come to believe, we find them back at their old jobs. We will soon see them as the progenitors of the church, but their immediate activity after coming out of hiding is to go back to fishing. Imagine that...having witnessed the single most important event in the history of the universe, rather than spreading the word of the new creation found in Jesus Christ, they continue on with their lives just as they were before!

We find ourselves in a similar spot, this week after Easter. Jesus has demonstrated his power over life and death, and shown repeatedly just how important his message is for the world.

Hopefully, we have experienced God’s grace and love as is encapsulated in the life of Jesus. And yet here we are, back to our lives as usual, not dropping everything we have to share this good news. Perhaps you are different, but I know I was back to work as normal on Monday.

I am challenged by this passage, just as the disciples were by the risen Christ. I am reminded that though Jesus has defeated death once and for all, my job as Christ’s evangelist is not over. I am confronted with the reality that if I go about pretending as though Jesus is not among us this very moment, then I too will pull up naught but an empty net. I can only hope to be the disciple whom Jesus loved, shouting *“It is the Lord”*, and rushing to the shore to be with him.

— Robin Levins, First Church member

Consider the Source John 21:1-14

A Family Affair

Today we come together to share in Holy Communion, a reminder that Jesus told the disciples to eat and drink in remembrance of him. When we gather with family and friends, we might also pray at our meals to remember Jesus. When does your family remember Jesus with a thankful prayer...at breakfast or lunch, perhaps during a family snack time, or dinner? Do you remember Jesus is with you at every meal?

Read and discuss John 21:1-14. Why did the disciples seem surprised to see Jesus once they recognized him? Were they expecting him? Jesus provided his friends with a great number of fish! Think about how amazed the disciples were to see so many fish. Jesus provides for you and your family every day.

As a family, play a game of *Go Fish* with a deck of cards. Each person will need to find a set of four matching cards. In the Bible passage Jesus asked his disciples *“Have you caught any fish?”*. When looking for a certain set of cards, ask a family member *“Have you caught any fish?”* and name which card you need.

Dear Lord, we know Jesus is always with us, providing for our needs. Help us learn to remember Jesus, not just when we go to church or take Communion, but in our lives every day. Amen.

—Tammy Parks, Elementary Coordinator

Monday: John 20:30-31

The book of John is tied up in a neat bow. Chapter 21 may be a later addition to the gospel, but it’s worth noting that chapter 21 is in our earliest manuscripts, and the early church certainly saw fit to read it all as one piece.

- Why do you think John didn’t include the “many other signs” of which he seems to be aware?
- If the first 20 chapters of John are seemingly sufficient to attest to the life of Jesus and act as proof of his life, why then chapter 21?

Tuesday: John 21:1-7

It’s back to normal life for the disciples...at least for a fleeting moment. Jesus won’t let them stay that way, though.

- What other stories of Jesus can you recall involving fish or fishing?
- What is it that causes the disciples to recognize who Jesus is?

Wednesday: John 21:6-11

In verses 6, 8, and 11, we see this emphasis on just how big the haul was. We don’t know the significance of the number 153 here, but we definitely see that this is more than the zero fish the disciples had before Jesus appeared on the scene.

- Remember the first sign in John...at the wedding in Cana in John 2:1-12. Go double-check it if you like. How does this scene harken back to that one?

Thursday: John 21:9-14

The gospel of John doesn’t contain a communion story (instead we have Jesus washing the feet of the disciples). Yet John clearly alludes to communion in a few spots, including here.

- How does this scene allude to holy communion?
- This week in church, we will partake of communion. This will be our first communion after the celebration of the resurrection. Today, remember the most recent communion you’ve had, and dwell on the life-giving bread that is part of this holy meal.

Friday: John 21:15-19

Jesus continues to nudge us to follow him, just as he does to Simon Peter. Once again, we are reminded that while Jesus gives in abundance, we are often called to self-sacrifice in following God’s calling.

- Jesus today asks the same of you as he asked of Simon Peter - *“Do you love me?”*
- Will you feed his lambs? Will you tend his sheep? Will you feed his sheep? Will you follow him?